

The Woman's Column.

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The Woman's Column.

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A VICTORY IN AUSTRALIA.



The Australian Senate has passed the adult suffrage bill without one dissenting vote. Mrs. A. Watson Lister writes: "This means that at the next federal elections, all the women in Australia will be able to vote for both houses of the Federal Parliament. The general impression is that, when adult suffrage becomes law for the Federal Parliament, the unenfranchised States (Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania and New South Wales) will soon follow suit. This is one benefit that federation has brought to the women of Australia."

Women have had school and municipal suffrage for many years throughout all the six divisions of Australia. In two of these divisions (South and West Australia) they have the right to vote for the local Parliament. Now that all the women in Australia are to have a vote in electing the National Parliament, the position of women in the four States that still debar them from a vote for the local Parliament will be as anomalous as if in some of our own States women could vote for members of Congress, but not for members of the State Legislature.

THE CUBAN REPUBLIC.

There is general and honest joy over the birth of the new Republic of Cuba into the family of nations. Yet it is only a short time since a large part of the American press was declaring that the Cubans were unfit for self-government—that they were too emotional, too excitable, too untrained in conducting public business. In short, just about the same objections were made to letting the Cubans manage their own affairs as are made to granting the ballot to the women of the United States.

From history and precedent, a stronger case could be made out against the fitness of Spanish-American men for self-government than against the fitness of American women; for most of the Spanish-American

republics in South America have been torn by emotional revolutions, while in our four equal suffrage States the government continues to be as stable and orderly as before women were enfranchised. Indeed, many men in those States say that it is more so.

There is no doubt that the Spanish-American republics, with all their shortcomings, furnish a government more satisfactory to their people than when they were ruled by Spain, and not one of them would be willing to return under the Spanish yoke. We have good reason, therefore, to rejoice in the emancipation of Cuba, even though Cuba is to be only half a Republic, its women being still disfranchised.

But if Cuban men, emotional as they are, can be given the control of their own destinies, and trusted to run their new republic all alone, cannot American women, with generations of Anglo-Saxon blood and training behind them, be trusted to share in the conduct of public affairs, with their husbands and brothers to help them, in our republic, where the men outnumber the women? It would not begin to be so risky an experiment as the one just inaugurated in Cuba with so much jubilant oratory.

The fundamental cause of the joy over Cuba is the feeling that the withdrawal of the American troops is honorable and right, since "governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed." It is strange how much more clearly most people can see the application of this principle to men of any color or nationality than to the women of their own race. But the time is coming when it will be applied to women also.

ALICE STONE BLACKWELL.

AN AUSTRALIAN VIEW.

In reference to the recent victory of the bill to grant women national suffrage throughout federated Australia, the *Melbourne Age* says:

Considering that female ratepayers are entitled to vote in municipal elections, and have been exercising their right for a good many years without a voice being raised either in deprecation of the principle or in censure of the practice, it does seem rather absurd, not to say illogical, to oppose the bestowal of the same privilege upon the sex at Parliamentary elections. For the one concession connotes the other. Or is there supposed to be a limitation of feminine intelligence and feminine interest in public affairs? Does the mind of a woman qualify her to take sound views of the character and capacity of candidates for municipal honors, and of the questions which councillors will be called upon to consider, and do her intellectual gifts stop there? Is she less interested in

the good government of the country as a whole than in that of the district in which she resides? Parliament is charged with the duty of imposing taxation; and the woman, as housewife and as the administrator of the domestic expenditure, is vitally concerned in the nature and incidence of that taxation, because, directly or indirectly, it may, and very frequently does, affect the price of every article of daily consumption. And in middle-class and working-class households it is the wife and mother who has to regulate her weekly purchases according to the cost of the necessities and comforts which are essential to the maintenance of the family. As a general rule, perhaps, women are better managers and better economists than men, and therefore likely to scrutinize public expenditure more narrowly, and to condemn waste and extravagance on the part of those who hold the State purse.

"As to the vulgarization of women, which Mr. Pulsford professes to dread from entrusting them with the Parliamentary franchise, we are not aware that a solitary complaint has been made against them on this score in connection with the many associations with which they are connected, and in which they possess and exercise a voting power. We should rather be inclined to hope that their participation in the political life of the community may do something for its elevation and purification. In some of the great collegiate institutions of the United States, in which large numbers of young people of both sexes are brought together for educational purposes, this daily association is said to exercise a markedly beneficial influence upon the male students, refining their manners, restraining their boisterousness, and accustoming them to the exercise of courtesy, delicacy, and consideration toward the other sex. And it is conceivable that the tone of the average voter may be raised by the admission of woman to an equality of political privileges with himself, and by her recording her vote in the same polling-booth.

"The extension of the suffrage to women would likewise remove a disability which is protested against by many, and involves a reflection upon all. To oppose its removal on the ground that a considerable number of women may never care to exercise the franchise is a puerile proceeding. The question at issue is one of right and wrong. If it is right to place men and women upon a footing of equality as regards the selection of those who are to make the laws and administer the national finances—and as an abstract question of justice and propriety this will scarcely be disputed—then it is no valid argument in favor of withholding that right that a certain portion of those who will be thus enfranchised may be too idle or too indifferent to take advantage of it."

CLUB WOMEN AND CHILD LABOR.

The question of child labor was brought to the attention of the biennial meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs on several occasions. Miss Jane Addams, of Hull House, laid stress upon the social waste caused by the employment of children in the factories. Children are stunted physically and mentally, and later join the great army of tramps, defectives and the unfit, which constitutes a growing peril.

The pathetic story of the factory children in the South was told by Mrs. A. O. Granger, president of the Georgia Federation. She described the efforts made by Southern club women, aided by labor organizations, ministers, educators and philanthropists, to secure legislation to prevent the employment of children under twelve years old in the factories. She said:

In vain we try to convince those whose self-interest would be injured by the release of the prisoners. Every effort made by the humanitarians is met at the portals of the capitol by a phalanx of mill superintendents, business men and corporation lawyers, to whose opinion the State legislators bow in obedience, and so continue the slaughter of the innocents.

Mrs. Granger estimated that one-third of the cotton factories in Georgia are operated entirely by Southern capital, and one-third entirely by Northern capital. "Therefore," she said, "the men of the South are not alone responsible, but the men of the country at large, or rather, the capitalists."

The position of the Southern woman is particularly trying. When she applies to the Southern mill presidents, they say they would be only too happy to see the child labor bill passed in every Southern State, but they cannot afford to shut out the children, thereby losing entire families of operatives, when the large mills, operated by Northern capital continue to employ child labor. When she applies to superintendents of Northern mills, they say they would be only too glad to see child labor abolished, as it is wasteful and extravagant, but that they are helpless, she must apply to the Northern officers and stockholders.

With the intensity and dramatic fervor characteristic of the Southern woman, Mrs. Granger appealed to the women present for help:

Women of New England, we ask your aid. Descendants as you are of the men who freed the black child in the cotton patch, will you not aid us in freeing the white child from the much more severe serfdom of the spinning room?

Women of the free and independent West, you whose ancestors could bear no thralldom, so chose life on the broad prairie, can you breathe freely God's gift to your vast expanses while our babes choke in the lint-filled air of the cotton mill? No; you will aid us to save our children.

The burden rests on the South. We ask the aid of the women of our common country, not because we wish to evade the responsibility or shift the blame, but because we are not alone to blame, therefore have a right to demand that others share with us the task of preventing further crime upon the lives of our children.

The effect of this appeal was pronounced; women listened with tears in their eyes, and many rose to their feet during the tumultuous applause that expressed interest and sympathy.

Before adjourning it was voted, on mo-

tion of Mrs. Coonley Ward of Chicago, that for the next twenty years the General Federation shall devote its efforts to the initiation, maintenance and improvement of child labor laws.

When a recent Georgia Legislature voted down the child labor bill for which the women had been earnestly working, a prominent Georgia club woman said it seemed exactly as if the legislators of that State were "in league with the Suffrage Association." There is nothing like working for legislative improvements to make women wish for the ballot.

"THE ENEMIES IT HAS MADE."

People who live in stone houses should not throw glass; it is so easy to see through. This is an unwritten thought of the late Marcus Aurelius that has never occurred to the Rev. C. J. Hall, assistant to the Rev. "Tom" Uzzell, who has lately gone out of the West to deliver a series of lectures in the churches, telling the expectant East what a failure woman suffrage is. Most people in the position of Mr. Hall would walk delicately and speak low, and thank their lucky stars that women were such forgiving creatures, and so afraid of getting into print.

Mr. Hall is a tall, lanky gentleman, with a retreating forehead; he possesses also an oleaginous manner, and a record. It is the record that makes a difference.

"Isn't it queer," said a woman the other day, "but have you noticed that nearly every time when a man attacks woman suffrage something disagreeable comes out about him?"

Whether there is a hoodoo that has a protecting agis over the cause of equal suffrage or not, does not enter into this discussion, but there are times when its adherents might almost think so.

First, there was the Hon. Bat Master-son; the Eastern papers quoted him far and wide as unalterably opposed to the extension of the franchise to "females." Then there was a "lady" somewhere down town, who said it was a fraud, a farce, a failure, and an unmitigated nuisance, and she wished the women would stay at home and mind their own business. When the Eastern papers got through rejoicing over her, they learned that she conducted a gambling establishment.

And now comes the Reverend, the grave and Reverend C. J. Hall. Mr. Hall finds equal suffrage a failure. He is "disappointed and chagrined" over the results.

Possibly Mr. Hall is sincere in his views; possibly he is talking for pay; but before giving credence to his remarks and accepting them as the last word on this question, it is well to know exactly what manner of man he is. The worst thing I know about the women of Colorado is that, owing to their forbearance, this man has been permitted to hold a respectable place in this community, and to go East to make money by vilifying the State that supports him, and the women who contribute to his ill-deserved salary.

Mr. Hall is English. But some years ago he decided to come West, and this he did with rather more celerity than is usual. Indeed, he came in such hot haste that he entirely forgot a wife and

four small children, left in a destitute condition. One cannot help wondering if the song of the "recruty" rang in his ears—"Left, left, left a wife and four small children, left, left!" Anyhow, he left them, and found green people and pastures new, where he could impose himself. So he settled down in a small town in one of the Middle Western States—it is all written in the chronicles of the W. C. T. U.—where he preached, and was active in all good and some bad works. Among other things he laid siege to the affections of a young woman who was a star singer in the choir, and in due time proposed and was accepted.

But the English wife seems to have been attached to Mr. Hall, or possibly she thought if he was able to support a wife, he should begin with the one he had; besides, the children were growing, and needed so many things; so she tried to find her recreant husband. She finally located him, and there was a scandal, and a mob escorted the gentleman to the city limits, and warned him not to return to that bailiwick. There was another similar story somewhere else, but let that pass.

In 1893, a year forever memorable to the people of this State, in addition to our other afflictions, the Rev. C. J. Hall came upon us. He was smooth, he was insinuating, and he longed, with an unutterable longing, to take up the good work for the W. C. T. U. But the members of that organization are an obstinate, not to say bull-headed, set of women, who have said among other things that they will never give over working to abolish the double standard of morals; then they are so narrow-minded that they can't see how a man who could leave one woman and four children to starve, can take off his coat and work for "the cause" of other women and children in whom he has no special interest. This shows the innate weakness and lack of logic that characterize the feminine mind. But, with all their faults, women do try to be just, so they asked the Rev. Mr. Hall to meet with the executive board of the W. C. T. U. of this State, in executive session assembled. With that noble assurance which has always characterized the man, he went to that meeting. There he was confronted with the story of his misdemeanors, which, with all his effrontery, he could neither palliate nor deny. Women who were present at that meeting say the man simply wilted and grovelled. He was so abject that some of the more mercifully-minded were moved to let him go, without any publicity, and this was done. But this is the reason why the Rev. C. J. Hall has never been recognized by the W. C. T. U., or permitted to speak from its platform.

The account of this meeting, the charges preferred, the action taken, the demeanor of the man, and the letters setting forth his true character, with many details not here set down, are in the hands of the lady who was then secretary of the board, and who publicly denounced this man as an imposter at a meeting in Colorado Springs.

It is a shame and a disgrace that such a man should be permitted to impose upon Eastern people, by misrepresenting the

women of Colorado, when he owes the very fact that he has been allowed to live here, and possibly make an attempt to retrieve himself, to their forbearance. Whether he has changed his spotty tendencies is a question. It is an open secret that he is trying to supplant Mr Uzzell, whose loyal helper he is supposed to be.

As to his strictures upon equal suffrage, they are like the man himself—not worth listening to.—*Ellis Meredith in Denver News.*

PRESIDENT HOLDER ON EQUAL SUFFRAGE.

President Arthur E. Holder of the Iowa State Federation of Labor said at the Federation's annual meeting, held in Cedar Rapids a few days ago:

"Many organizations with elaborate titles talk about the condition of women and children wage-earners. Let the trade unions of Iowa do something for them. Let us be practical and conservative, and not allow avarice and commercialism to undermine the standard of American life by taking advantage of the weaker element of society. The confidence of our sisters must first be won, and after that their self-interest must be encouraged by extending organization among them. Open wide the avenues of discussion; illustrate the advantage of collective bargaining, instead of destructive wage-cutting by individual competition. If we would be consistent by saying, 'Equal pay for equal service,' let us add, 'Equal rights for all,' regardless of sex, and herald to the world that the trade unionists of Iowa are willing to take advanced ground, and declare with no uncertain sound that we are willing to give our sisters the ballot. If we are, then let us conscientiously help them to get it.

"Our platform of principles emphatically declares that we draw no line as against creed, color, nationality, or sex. Woman has taken her place side by side with man in industrial and professional pursuits. This is all a part of our economic development, and no human power is strong enough to regulate her; no one is audacious enough even to propose it. We know where our duty lies, and that is to give women all the protection possible. If we are in earnest, and prevail upon them to see the necessity of organization, can we say, Stop at the threshold of the trade union? No; we must show our sincerity by adding, You are responsible citizens; you are our industrial associates; you are entitled to all the privileges and duties, as well as the responsibilities, of your new station in life; the open door of the franchise shall be given you. When women are given these wider opportunities they will improve them, and no problem of child labor will stare us in the face, and no repetition will occur of trifling with or making a bagatelle out of so vital a question, as was performed with the mild and extremely conservative child labor regulation bill that was presented to our recent general assembly.

"The effect of such a declaration in favor of equal rights would be magical. It would gather to our support a host of sympathizers who would wish to reciprocate and more generously patronize our

'union-labelled' products, and when once the public knows and inwardly comprehends that the label stands for peace, purity, proficiency and protection to American labor, the welfare of ourselves, our sisters and our children will be advanced, and our American standard of life be forever secure.

"The union label is the most potent factor in the solution of the labor problem. It is a peaceful weapon that should appeal to all interested in the welfare of labor. It is a quiet protest against long hours, bad conditions and low wages."

The report of the debate on woman suffrage in the Senate of Federated Australia is published in the *Woman's Journal* this week.

Mrs. F. H. Locke read a paper on Current Events before the Friday Club of East Lexington, Mass., recently, in which she gave a summary of the results of equal suffrage in the enfranchised States, the good laws passed since women obtained the ballot, etc. It was listened to with close attention, and was pronounced the most interesting talk the club had had this year.

The Connecticut Constitutional Convention has adjourned, leaving the men of cities and manufacturing towns only partially represented. Under the new constitution twenty-two small country towns, containing less than one in fourteen of the population, would elect seventeen more representatives than a majority of the population resident elsewhere. An outcry goes up from the whole country at this inequality. But how faint in comparison is the protest against the total disfranchisement of every woman!

Mr. Jacob A. Riis, in answer to a letter of inquiry from this office, writes that his remarks before the Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Clubs at Springfield were incorrectly reported. The editor of the *WOMAN'S COLUMN* was not at Springfield. Mrs. Park and some other ladies who were there understood Mr. Riis to intimate that women could do more to better civic conditions if they had votes, and Mrs. Park so reported at this office. Mr. Riis says they misunderstood him. We hasten to correct the error.

The petition of Mrs. Alice Parker Lesser and others that women may take part in primaries for the nomination of candidates for school committee has been referred by the Committee on Election Laws to the next General Court. The *Boston Transcript* says of the women's request: "It is certainly but a logical proposition, for if it be right to permit women to vote for candidates for school committee, it is plainly right also to give them a chance to select the candidates." The refusal of a measure so self-evidently in accord with fairness and common sense shows how hard it is for women to get even the most obvious justice while they are without a vote.

In that valuable book "The Art of Debate," by Raymond MacDonald Alden, Ph. D., Instructor in the University of Pennsylvania, in discussing the prelim-

inary work necessary in debate, the author gives an illustrative outline, using the proposition: "Women should have the right of suffrage in the United States." The outline, as might be expected, is an admirable one for the educational purpose for which it is primarily designed; and it is equally serviceable for any person who wishes to present in effective form the arguments in favor of the proposition as stated. The book is published by Henry Holt & Co.

The Women's National Liberal Federation of England has voted to support no candidates for Parliament except those who will pledge themselves, if elected, to vote for full suffrage for women.

Miss Lucy D. Jennings, of the Wesleyan University, Delaware, O., won the first prize at the eighth annual oratorical contest of the Central Oratorical League, recently held at Columbus, O. The League is composed of Cornell, Wesleyan, and the Illinois, Indiana, West Virginia and Ohio State Universities. Miss Jennings is the only woman who has represented a college in these contests since the organization of the League. She graduated from the high school at Washington Court House in '94, and taught at the Girls' Industrial Home until 1900, when she entered the Ohio Wesleyan. Her subject was "Slav or Saxon." She was accompanied by a delegation of 500 girl students.

The Woman's Journal,

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MRS. HOWE'S 83D BIRTHDAY.

The annual lunch given by the New England Women's Club in honor of Mrs. Julia Ward Howe's birthday is always a noteworthy event, and becomes more and more so as the years go by.

Mrs. Howe's birthday is May 27, but on that day her numerous children and grandchildren always want her for a home celebration, so it is the custom of the club to celebrate on the Saturday before. A full report of the brilliant speeches made at the Vendome last Saturday is given in the *Woman's Journal* of May 31.

The meeting closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," Mrs. Howe playing the accompaniment with the force and spirit of a girl.

Mrs. Howe spent her real birthday, May 27, quietly at home with her family. During the morning she had many callers, but she sent down her greetings to them from her room, as it was thought advisable that she should rest until afternoon. Later in the day she received informally a great many friends.

Birthday greetings and flowers came pouring in from all parts of the country. Early in the morning her room was fragrant with roses and wild flowers. A vase of eighty-three pinks was brought by Mrs. A. R. Willard with the good wishes of the Italian Club, in which Mrs. Howe has always been especially interested, and other organizations also sent flowers. Among the gifts were a magnificent pink rhododendron in a pot, a birthday cake with candied violets on top, and a silver-mounted cane. This last gave Mrs. Howe especial pleasure, and she walked about the rooms with it, carrying a great bunch of yellow and purple pansies that set off her green silk dress.

Mrs. Howe is in excellent health, and her physician says she has "the constitution of a rhinoceros." She is warmly appreciative of the good wishes which have come to her from every side.

CLARA BARTON AND MISS NIGHTINGALE

Miss Clara Barton, president of the American Red Cross Society, is at St. Petersburg, attending the International Red Cross Congress, which opened on May 29. She is in much stronger health than Florence Nightingale.

Miss Nightingale celebrated her eighty-first birthday on May 15th, at Claydon House, Buckinghamshire, the country seat of her sister, Lady Verney. There was no public demonstration, just an informal gathering of a few of her friends. A striking instance of the love and veneration felt for Miss Nightingale by English soldiers was lately given by a contemporary: The late Sir John Steell, sculptor to Queen Victoria, had modelled a bust of Miss Nightingale. An officer of one of the Highland regiments which had suffered so cruelly in the Crimea heard that the bust had just been completed and was in Steell's studio. Many of the men in his company had passed through the hospital at Scutari, and he got permission from the sculptor to bring some of them to see the bust. Accordingly, a squad

marched into the studio and stood in line. They had no idea why they had been mustered in so strange a place. The bust was uncovered, and then, as by one impulse, the men broke rank, and, with cries of "Miss Nightingale! Miss Nightingale!" surrounded the model, and, with hats off, cheered the figure of their devoted nurse until the roof rang. Like Clara Barton, Florence Nightingale has been a lifelong advocate of equal rights for women. Years ago she wrote: "You ask my reasons for believing in women's suffrage. It seems to me almost self-evident, an axiom, that every tax-payer ought to have a voice in the expenditure of the money we pay, involving, as this does, interests the most vital to a human being."

MARRIED WOMEN MAY TEACH.

The Sioux City (Ia.) Board of Education, about a year ago, passed a resolution to drop from the corps of women teachers all married women whose husbands were able to support them. The resolution was to take effect at the end of this school year. At the last board meeting, this action was rescinded by a vote of five to two. It was decided that efficiency, and not celibacy or poverty, should be the basis for continuance in the service. The former vote was a recognition of the vicious principle that positions in the public schools should be awarded not to the best teacher, but to the neediest applicant.

COST OF A CORONATION.

The cost of each successive coronation in England is greater than the last. The ceremonies at King William's coronation cost the nation \$225,000; those of Queen Victoria, \$350,000; and for those of King Edward, \$500,000 has been appropriated. Let not Americans, however, be too quick to point the finger of scorn. During the year ending June 30, 1901, the people of the United States spent for liquor \$1,219,346,686, an average of \$15.71 per capita for every man, woman and child. The consumption of liquor has grown from 4.17 gallons per capita in 1840 to 7.69 in 1870 and 17.90 in 1901. Benjamin Franklin said that, heavy as governmental taxes are, we could more easily discharge them if we did not pay a much heavier voluntary tax to our follies and our vices. If all the money now wasted or worse than wasted were applied to some useful purpose, there would be enough for all good objects. Women are said to be the economical sex. Let their influence in public affairs be increased. — *Woman's Journal*.

MRS. CHANT COMING.

Mrs. Laura Ormiston Chant, of London, expects to spend next November and December in Massachusetts. She will no doubt be in great demand for lectures, and those who want to make sure of her on any given date will do well to apply early to Miss Julia E. Hilliard, 116 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston, who makes the arrangements for her. Among Mrs. Chant's many subjects are: The Old and New Woman, Novels as Historians of So-

cial Life, A Hundred Years of Progress, Among the Armenians in Bulgaria, Through the Blockade to Crete (illustrated with lantern slides from snap-shots taken by Mrs. Chant on the spot), A Bird's-Eye View of the Twentieth Century, sermons and addresses on religious and social subjects, talks on Tennyson, Shelley, Lanier, Spencer's Faerie Queen, The London of Dickens, Dickens's Boys and Girls, Characters Created by Dickens, etc. Miss Hilliard is already arranging for a course of six parlor lectures to be given by Mrs. Chant in Back Bay homes, mainly on literary subjects; tickets, \$5 for the course.

WOMEN AND MORAL QUESTIONS.

"We ought to insist upon the fundamentally moral character of the issues of the hour," said President Eliot of Harvard, in his address to the Unitarian Association at its 77th annual meeting in Boston on May 27. "The national issues which to-day most conspicuously agitate public opinion are at the bottom moral questions, and they never will be permanently settled until they are settled according to the requirements of right feeling, brotherly sympathy, and impartial justice." President Eliot would hardly say that women are less moral than men, yet he insists that women are unfit to have a vote in deciding any of these great moral questions.

STATE-SANCTIONED VICE IN NEW ORLEANS.

Buffalo is not the only city in the United States that has adopted the unrighteous principle of setting off a certain district for houses of ill fame. New Orleans did so about a year ago, by a city ordinance. One part of the "vice preserve" is devoted to disorderly houses occupied by white women, the other to similar houses occupied by colored women. When official protection is thus given to mercenary vice as a legitimate industry, the whole moral tone of the community is inevitably lowered. Let the women of New Orleans see what they can do, even without a vote, to secure the repeal of this wicked and foolish ordinance.

We rejoice in the passage of the Mothers' Equal Guardianship Bill, May 28, to a third reading by the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and we urge both branches of our Legislature to concur in this act of justice to the mothers of Massachusetts.

Mrs. Abby Morton Diaz is publishing a series of thoughtful articles on "Hindrances to World-Betterment" in *Mind*, a monthly magazine issued in New York by the Alliance Publishing Company. In the April number, she treated of the obstacle to improvement presented by the exclusion of women from the educational responsibilities of the ballot, a deprivation whereby half the human race are rendered less intelligent, and at least a quarter of the remaining half are made less intelligent also by heredity, through the cramping of the intelligence of their mothers.